

MEETING MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTH COATESVILLE
August 26, 2025

The South Coatesville Borough Council met on August 26, 2025, 7:00pm, at Borough Hall, 136 Modena Road, South Coatesville, PA. Members present: President Wright, Vice President Watson, Councilor Bond, Jones, Washington, and Eveland. Mayor Long participated via phone. Councilor Bond was not in attendance.

Also in attendance were Police Sergeant Gober and Manager Plaughter. Solicitor Gerber was not in attendance.

Call to Order

Council President Wright called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

President announced that Council met in executive session this evening at 6:00pm to discuss personnel and legal matters.

President Wright spoke on tonight's meeting rules of order and reminded those in attendance that they may only comment at the appropriate times listed on the agenda for citizen comments.

Citizens to be Heard – Agenda Items

None

Motion to amend the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda

Motion to amend the agenda by Councilor Floyd to add accepting the resignation of seasonal public works employee Brandon Shilling submitted on August 15, 2025, and to rehire Rebecca Durnall as an administrative assistant. Second by Vice President Watson, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the agenda by Councilor Floyd, second by Councilor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Zoning Hearing Board

Manager Plaughter updated on Disruptive Innovation Advisors application before the Zoning hearing Board for zoning relief to construct sixty-eight townhomes is scheduled for tomorrow evening, August 27, 2025. Borough Solicitor Siana Law sent a letter to Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor McKenna stating Borough Council's opposition to the zoning relief.

New Business

Woodward Road Project – Bid Award

Tom Wilkes from Carroll Engineering was present and advised that bids were received and opened by Carroll Engineering on August 22, 2025, and ranged from \$61,275.40 to \$89,275.00. The lowest was Associated Paving Contractors at \$61,275.40. Motion to award the bid to Associated Paving Contractors in the amount of \$61,275.40 by Councilor Floyd, second by Councilor Washington. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilkes advised Council that he expects the project to be completed by the end of this year. He also advised that tree branches have grown into the roadway on Woodward Road, since its closure in 2021 and will need to be trimmed back to allow for traffic. Councilor Jones asked if we had a balance from the grant and could it be used for other Borough projects. Mr. Wilkes stated he would check into this and let Council know.

Summit Village – Phase II

The developer's presentation and request for waivers was removed from the agenda pending Cedarville Engineering's review of the submitted plans.

Employment Actions

Ann Novak, Borough Treasurer, a part-time position, submitted her resignation on August 18, 2025. Motion to accept the resignation by Vice President Watson, second by Councilor Floyd. Motion carried unanimously.

Brandon Shilling, a seasonal public works employee, submitted his resignation on August 15, 2025. Motion to accept the resignation by Councilor Eveland, second by Councilor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Rebecca Durnall, an administrative assistant at Borough Hall, who resigned earlier this summer, has requested to be reinstated. Motion to re-hire Rebecca Durnall to her part-time position at the same pay rate and work hours by Vice President Watson, second by Councilor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

McGarrigle Bookkeeping and Consulting Services – Proposal

Council reviewed McGarrigle Bookkeeping and Consulting Services proposal to clean-up and organize year 2025 QuickBooks and streamline for efficient processing moving forward. The billing rate will be \$75 per hour with a \$2,000 - \$3,000 minimum estimated cost to complete the project. Motion to approve by Vice President Watson, second by Councilor Floyd. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor's Appointment

Borough Solicitor Christopher Gerber has moved from Siana Law to Lamb McErlane, requiring Borough Council to act and appoint a solicitor. Motion by Councilor Floyd to move all legal services from Siana Law to Lamb McErlane, second by Vice President Watson. Councilor Jones commented that we may want to put legal services out to bid. Councilor Washinton commented on the process of transferring work and documents from Siana Law to Lamb McErlane. President Wright commented that Borough Council can change solicitors at any time, and we are not locked into a contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Recycling Collection

President Wright explained that due to staffing issues, Borough Public Works was not able to collect recycles this past week, and that the Borough should be good moving forward, with a back-up plan to use JP Mascaro & Sons.

South Coatesville Community Day

Tina Floyd from Parks and Recreation updated Borough Council on Community Day, set for Saturday, September 13, 2025. \$1,500 has been donated for the event. Pop-up tents are needed, along with a DJ. Food vendors are also being sought. Borough Council and staff are invited to attend.

Pay Bills

Borough Council reviewed the bills list provided by the Finance Committee. Motion to pay the bills by Councilor Washington, second by Vice President Watson. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Police – Sergeant Gober reported that Community Day information has been emailed out to our residents. The Tahoe windshield has been repaired and was covered by insurance. The City of Coatesville donated two used tasers to our department. Further, Sergeant Gober advised that the street sign memorial cap ceremony on Gibbons Avenue to honor Mr. James Bryant, originally scheduled for August 30th, has been postponed by the family to a future date. He also suggested that Borough Council may want to consider a welcome letter or packet to send to new residents of Southview and Summit Village. Councilor Eveland will work on a letter. Councilor Washington asked about an explosion last night in the scrap yard. Sergeant Gober is investigating and a fine will be issued if warranted.

Public Works – Report to follow

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Report to follow

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Modena Fire Company – Report to follow

Planning Commission – Councilor Eveland reported she has been in contact with the Chester County Planning Commission on solar options for electricity at Borough owned property. The Borough could have options for the Public Works garage and sewer plant and save on energy costs. To proceed, a cost of \$250 for a feasibility study will be needed. More to follow.

Citizen Comments

Gilbert Parker asked about the Youngsburg Road project and would any grant money be left over for sewer line repair. He also asked about the Jacob Chapman property, on how it was zoned and the number of acres.

Wesley Taylor spoke on behalf of his elderly mother who resides at 1199 Youngsburg Road, advising there is a sink hole on her property. They had Cleveland-Cliffs out to look at it and Cleveland-Cliffs told them it was the Borough's responsibility. Councilor Floyd will follow up.

Rebecca Ward of Southview advised that she would be happy to assist with distributing a welcome letter to the residents. She also thanked Public Works for patching potholes on Overhill Road and asked about why half her street had recycled on the last pick-up day. President Wright addressed this earlier in the meeting.

Spartacus Lewis thought a welcome letter would be a good idea and asked if non-residents can be on the Zoning Hearing Board. He also asked about a property he was interested in buying.

Council Closing Comments

Councilor Eveland thanked Public Works for filling the potholes on Overhill Road, and President Wright and Vice President Watson for their work on the bill's payment list.

Councilor Floyd reported that he is working on a plan to address unpaid sewer bills and there is an upcoming meeting this Friday with PENNDOT to discuss maintenance of state-owned roads in the Borough.

Councilor Washington commented on the need to follow up on painting a crosswalk on Youngsburg Road and thanked all those who attended the Zachariah Walker event. She also thanked the police and public works for a good job with traffic control.

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Council Jones commented on upkeep at the AME Church.

Vice President Watson advised there is a COG meeting tomorrow evening, August 27th.

President Wright advised that at Borough Council's next meeting, Council will discuss and consider having one public meeting each month, and that residents of Southview will have the opportunity to accompany Council and the developer on the next "punch list" tour.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jones, second by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven J. Plaugher
Borough Manager